

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 16, 19 - 24, 26, 31, 38, 41, 44, 47, 50, and 53 as indicated below:

1 (currently amended). A method for referencing image data, comprising the steps of:

~~reviewing a portion of the image data;~~

~~based on said reviewing, selecting from~~ identifying, within one or more image records, first image data within said portion a point of reference; and

identifying, within said one or more image records, second image data distinct from said first image data;

creating an electronic first link between said point of reference first image data and another portion of the image data said second image data; and

searching for at least a portion of the linked image data including at least one of (a) examining a plurality of links to and from said portion, (b) determining navigation sequences that include said first link, and (c) parametrically characterizing said portion to obtain a characterizing vector and comparing said characterizing vector with a query vector.

2 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

3 (currently amended). The method of claim 2, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform said at least one of the steps of the method.

4 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said link is a roll-over link, the method further comprising adding metadata to the image data.

5 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said link is a hyperlink, wherein said hyperlink points to said other portion of the image data.

6 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising producing at least one image record within which are a plurality of electronic links, and searching for data objects within the image records connected by said links by examining said links~~ including said searching (a) within at least one image record.

7 (original). The method of claim 6, wherein said step of examining includes computing respective metrics derived from said links for said data objects.

8 (original). The method of claim 7, wherein said metrics are citation-rank scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said citation-rank scores.

9 (original). The method of claim 7, wherein said metrics are importance scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said importance scores.

10 (original). The method of claim 7, wherein said metrics include at least one of hub and authority scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said at least one of hub and authority scores.

11 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising producing a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links, and searching for data objects connected by said links by examining said links including~~ said searching (a) within a plurality of image records.

12 (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of examining includes computing respective metrics derived from said links for said data objects.

13 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein said metrics are citation-rank scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said citation-rank scores.

14 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein said metrics are importance scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said importance scores.

15 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein said metrics include at least one of hub and authority scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said at least one of hub and authority scores.

16 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising pre-fetching ~~said other portion of the image data~~ said portion as a result of recognizing the existence of said electronic link.

17 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a second electronic link in another image record as a result of recognizing the existence of said electronic link.

18 (original). The method of claim 17, further comprising pre-fetching a data object as a result of recognizing the existence of said electronic link.

19 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising producing at least one image record within which are a plurality of electronic links, including said searching (b) within at least one image record by~~ determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said one or more image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and pre-fetching a data object as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences.

20 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising producing at least one image record within which are a plurality of electronic links, including said searching (b) within at least one image record by~~ determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said one or more image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and creating a new electronic link as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences.

21 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising producing a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links, including said searching (b) within a plurality of image records by~~ determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and pre-fetching a data object as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences.

22 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising producing a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links, including said searching (b) within a plurality of image records by~~ determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and creating a new electronic link as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences.

23 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising parametrically characterizing said portion of image data to obtain a characterizing vector,~~

~~and searching for said portion by comparing said characterizing vector with a predetermined query vector~~ including said searching (c).

24 (currently amended). A method for referencing image data, comprising producing ~~at least one or more~~ image records within which or between are ~~a plurality of one or more~~ electronic links to the image data, and searching for data objects within the one or more image records connected by said one or more links by examining said one or more links.

25 (original). The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

26 (currently amended). The method of claim 25, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform said at least one of the steps of the method.

27 (original). The method of claim 24, wherein said step of examining includes computing respective metrics derived from said links for said data objects.

28 (original). The method of claim 27, wherein said metrics are citation-rank scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said citation-rank scores.

29 (original). The method of claim 27, wherein said metrics are importance scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said importance scores.

30 (original). The method of claim 27, wherein said metrics include at least one of hub and authority scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said at least one of hub and authority scores.

31 (currently amended). A method for referencing image data, comprising producing ~~a plurality of~~ one or more image records between or within which are a plurality of electronic links to and from the image data, and searching for data objects connected by said links by examining the links.

32 (original). The method of claim 31, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

33 (original). The method of claim 32, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform said at least one of the steps of the method.

34 (original). The method of claim 31, wherein said step of examining includes computing respective metrics derived from said links for said data objects.

35 (original). The method of claim 34, wherein said metrics are citation-rank scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said citation-rank scores.

36 (original). The method of claim 34, wherein said metrics are importance scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said importance scores.

37 (original). The method of claim 34, wherein said metrics include at least one of hub and authority scores, the method further comprising ordering said data objects according to the respective said at least one of hub and authority scores.

38 (currently amended). A method for referencing image data, comprising producing ~~at least one~~ an image record within which are a plurality of electronic links, determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said image

record one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and pre-fetching a data object as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences.

39 (original). The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

40 (original). The method of claim 39, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform said at least one of the steps of the method.

41 (currently amended). A method for referencing image data, comprising producing ~~at least one~~ or more image records ~~within or between~~ which are a plurality of electronic links, determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said one or more image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and creating a new electronic link as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences.

42 (original). The method of claim 41, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

43 (original). The method of claim 42, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform said at least one of the steps of the method.

44 (currently amended). ~~A method for referencing image data, comprising producing a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links, determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and pre-fetching a data object as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences~~ The method of claim 38, comprising a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links.

45 (original). The method of claim 44, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

46 (original). The method of claim 45, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform at least one of the steps of the method.

47 (currently amended). ~~A method for referencing image data, comprising producing a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links, determining from among a plurality of navigation sequences for navigating said image records one or more most frequent navigation sequences, and creating a new electronic link as a result of recognizing said one or more most frequent navigation sequences~~ The method of claim 41, comprising a plurality of image records between which are a plurality of electronic links.

48 (original). The method of claim 47, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

49 (original). The method of claim 48, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform at least one of the steps of the method.

50 (currently amended). A method for referencing pathology image data, comprising parametrically characterizing ~~said~~ a portion of the pathology image data using N-gram encoding to obtain ~~[[a]]~~ an N-gram characterizing vector, and searching for said portion by comparing said characterizing vector with a predetermined query vector.

51 (original). The method of claim 50, wherein at least one of the steps of the method is executed by a computer.

52 (original). The method of claim 51, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform said at least one of the steps of the method.

53 (currently amended). [[A]] The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer to perform a method for referencing image data, the method comprising:

~~reviewing a portion of the image data;~~

~~based on said reviewing, selecting from within said portion
a point of reference; and~~

~~creating an electronic link between said point of reference and
another portion of the image data.~~